

Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 4, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-13 are now pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended to delete the language noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the antecedent basis issue noted in the Office Action.

Regarding claims 3 and 8, the assertion in the office action that "FAKRA" is a trademark is respectfully traversed. As Applicants noted in the last response, FAKRA is not a trademark and does not refer to a brand of connectors. Rather, FAKRA refers to a Deutsche Industrie Norm (DIN) standard or specification which has been accepted worldwide for automotive communications and entertainment systems. As used in the present claims, FAKRA refers to the corresponding standard, and does not refer to a particular material or product. The rejection of claims 3 and 8 on the grounds that they are indefinite due to improper use of a trademark is therefore believed to be in error. Applicants accordingly request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 3 and 8.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the scope of claims 3 and 8 is not indefinite. References to FAKRA connectors per the instant claim language may be found in product literature and various web sites of numerous manufacturers in the connector industry, as well as

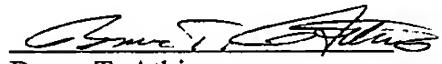
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in the patent literature. See, for example, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/1076104 and 2003/0143893. It is therefore submitted that the use of "FAKRA" in the present claims has a definite and readily understood connotation to those of ordinary skill in the art in the connector industry, and that Applicants intent in claims 3 and 8 is clear and readily understood by those persons of ordinary skill in the art.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the Section 112 rejection of claims 1, 3 and 8 be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7 and 9-13. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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